

Message Text

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44

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

EB-07 COME-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 /069 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:EAPADELFORD:LL

APPROVED BY NEA/RA:SEPALMERJR

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

PM/SAS - COL. FARNHAM (DRAFT)

OSD/ISA - COL. FIFER

PM/ISO - CAPT. PASZTALANIEC

OSD/ISA - MAJ. GEN. BALDWIN

OSD/GC - MR. HERO

NEA/P - MR. VAN ORDER

PM/ISO - COL. MASON

----- 100242

P R 191503Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO USMTM SAUDI ARABIA

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 298990

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, MILI, SY, SA

SUBJECT:UTILIZATION OF U.S. PERSONNEL IN SAUDI AIRLIFTS

-- TO SYRIA

REF: (A) USDAO JIDDA 0950 (B) USDAO JIDDA 0959

1. DEPARTMENT AND DOD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING IMPLICATIONS

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OF REPORT IN USDAO JIDDA'S 0950 OF DECEMBER 10 THAT

AMERICAN CREW MEMBERS FROM LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION WERE FLYING SOME OF THE NORMAL AIRLIFT RUNS FROM RIYADH TO DAMASCUS IN SUPPORT OF THE SAUDI BRIGADE IN SYRIA. REFTEL A INDICATED THAT A RECENT FLIGHT LIFTED CONSIDERABLE MILITARY MATERIEL; THAT AIRLIFT HAD BEEN TERMINATED TEMPORARILY, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE HAJ, BUT MIGHT BE RESUMED MID-DECEMBER.

2. AS YOU KNOW THERE HAS BEEN CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN SAUDI TRAINING AND OTHER FLIGHTS TO SYRIA; IN PARTICULAR, SENATOR CASE RECENTLY INQUIRED ABOUT SAUDI MILITARY EXERCISE WHICH INVOLVED SAUDI F5'S FLYING INTO SYRIA. CASE ALSO PUBLICIZED PORTIONS OF DEPARTMENT'S UNCLASSIFIED RESPONSE.

3. PARTICULARLY AS SAUDIS ARE MAKING NO EFFORT TO KEEP SUPPORT FLIGHTS TO SYRIA SECRET, PRESENCE OF AMERICAN

CREW MEMBERS COULD BECOME PUBLIC, RESULTING IN INEVITABLE CRITICISM AIMED AT USG, SAG, LOCKHEED AND AT US MILITARY SALES PROGRAM TO SAUDI ARABIA.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEST WAY TO HANDLE MATTER WITH MINIMAL ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR ONGOING RELATIONS WITH SAUDIS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, INFORMATION CONTROL, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE298990
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EAPADELFORD:LL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750441-1133
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751227/aaaaaxgc.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TILIZATION OF U.S. PERSONNEL IN SAUDI AIRLIFTS -- TO SYRIA
TAGS: OCLR, MILI, SY, SA, US, LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006